

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HAVANA 01164 041727Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 SSO-00 L-03 FS-01
ABF-01 EB-08 /031 W
-----019484 041740Z /43
O 041509Z MAY 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1796

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HAVANA 1164

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC, CGEN, CU
SUBJECT: LEE RAMSEY - DOWNED AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 109201 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING COURSE OF TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1978, RAMSEY INSPECTED AIRCRAFT AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OFFICIALS OF EMPRESA DE SERVICIOS AEROPORTUARIOS DE OCCIDENTE (AN ELEMENT OF CUBANA DE AVIACION), ADVISED USINT THAT TOTAL AMOUNT DUE WAS CUBAN PESOS 7,496.23 (US\$ EQUIVALENT \$9,881.79). RAMSEY SIGNED STATEMENT ON MAY 2, 1978 REQUEST

-
ING AND AUTHORIZING USINT TO TRANSFER ON HIS BEHALF US\$ 9,881.79 TO CUBANA DE AVIACION FOR SERVICES ON AIRPLANE.

2. IN ABSENCE OF USINT CASHIER, POST ADVISED CUBANA DE AVIACION THAT PAYMENT COULD NOT BE MADE BEFORE MAY 4, 1978. CUBANA RESPONDED THAT RAMSEY AND AIRCRAFT WOULD BE PERMITTED LEAVE CUBA MORNING MAY 3, 1978 ONLY IF MINREX WOULD APPROVE USINT'S ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO SETTLE THE BILL AFTER RAMSEY'S DEPARTURE. MINREX CONFIRMED TO USINT LATE AFTERNOON, MAY 2, 1978, THAT DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON THIS POINT WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE RAMSEY'S DEPARTURE WOULD BE AUTHORIZED.

3. MID-MORNING MAY3, 1978, USINT DELIVERED NOTE TO MINREX
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HAVANA 01164 041727Z

STATING "THE INTERESTS SECTION IS AUTHORIZED TO TRANSFER TO CUBANA DE AVIACION THE AMOUNT OF 7,496.23 PESOS ON BEHALF OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CITIZEN LEE M. RAMSEY. THIS AMOUNT WILL COVER CHARGES FOR SERVICES PERFORMED BY CUBANA DE AVIACION ON MR. RAMSEY'S AIRPLANE". UPON RECEIPT OF NOTE, MINREX AUTHORIZED RAMSEY DEPARTURE AND ORALLY ADVISED USINT THAT PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO EMPRESA DE SERVICIOS AEROPORTUARIOS DE OCCIDENTE.

4. LATER IN MORNING MAY 3, 1978 RAMSEY CALLED USINT FROM AIRPORT TO REPORT THAT AS HE WAS PREPARING TO DEPART HAVANA GROUND ACCIDENT HAD DAMAGED AIRPLANE "BEYOND REPAIR". POST HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING EXTENT OF DAMAGES. AT THAT TIME RAMSEY MADE VERBAL REQUEST THAT BILL NOT BE PAID. HE THEN BEGAN PREPARATIONS TO LEAVE CUBA BY COMMERCIAL AIR.

5. WHEN RAMSEY ARRIVED AT USINT LATE AFTERNOON MAY 3, 1978 HE REFERRED TO PROBABLE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE CLAIM HE INTENDED TO MAKE FOR DAMAGES TO HIS AIRCRAFT DUE TO FAULTY REPAIRS. CONSULAR OFFICER ADVISED RAMSEY THAT PRIVATE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST CUBAN ENTERPRISE PROBABLY WAS POSSIBLE, THAT POST NOT AUTHORIZED OFFER LEGAL ADVICE, BUT THAT WE WOULD OBTAIN LIST OF LOCAL LAWYERS FROM WHICH HE COULD CHOOSE REPRESENTATIVE IF HE CHOSE TO DO SO. RAMSEY STATED INTENTION RETURN HOME, GATHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT CLAIM, AND CONTACT DEPARTMENT FOR ADVICE.

6. AFTER SIGNING VOUCHER AND RECEIVING BALANCE OF FUNDS DEPOSITED (\$118.21), RAMSEY THEN PRESENTED HAND-WRITTEN STATEMENT READING "BECAUSE OF IMPROPER REPAIRS MADE ON REFERENCED AIRCRAFT I HEREBY REVOKE AND CANCEL ALL PREVIOUSLY SIGNED AUTHORIZATION TO PAY THE BILL IN SAID AMOUNT". CONSULAR OFFICER RESPONDED THAT BASED ON HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 HAVANA 01164 041727Z

PREVIOUS AUTHORIZATION OBLIGATION TO PAY HAD BEEN MADE AND WOULD BE HONORED.

7. RAMSEY DEPARTED ON EVENING FLIGHT TO MEXICO CITY MAY 3, 1978. JUST BEFORE LEAVING HE CALLED MARINE GUARD AT USINT TO LEAVE MESSAGE FOR CONSULAR OFFICER AGAIN REQUESTING THAT FUNDS NOT BE DISBURSED WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM DEPARTMENT.

8. USINT CONSIDERS THAT BASED ON AUTHORIZATION IN REFTEL AND INITIAL WRITTEN REQUEST FROM RAMSEY, OBLIGATION UNDERTAKEN WITH MINREX AND CUBAN ENTERPRISE WAS APPROPRIATE AND CERTAINLY MUST NOW BE HONORED. GOOD FAITH AND CREDIT OF USG AND SPECIFICALLY OF USINT ARE AT STAKE. THUS WE PROPOSE MAKE PAYMENT PROMPTLY UNDER COVER LETTER STATING THAT THIS PAYMENT IS NO WAY SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS WAIVING ANY CLAIM WHICH MAY BE ADVANCED LATER ON BEHALF OF MR. RAMSEY IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPAIRS WHICH WERE PERFORMED ON HIS AIRCRAFT AND/OR SUBSEQUENT DAMAGE TO THE AIRCRAFT.
LANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA01164
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780191-0098
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780594/aaaadcgy.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4ed98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 109201
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2796042
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEE RAMSEY - DOWNED AIRCRAFT
TAGS: CASC, CGEN, CU, (RAMSEY, LEE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4ed98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014